

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11921 161446Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 MCE-00 /061 W  
-----099285 161448Z /43

O 161541Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7321  
ISA/EUR WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DSAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
HQUSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
ASD WPAFB OHIO IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11921

FROM ODC BELLUX.

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, BE  
SUBJECT: F-16 OPTIONAL AIRCRAFT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE P. VANDEN BOEYNANTS, DATED 16 JUN 78: "DEAR  
MISTER SECRETARY, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A VERY SHORT  
PERIOD I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT DUE TO THE VERY DIFFICULT  
POLITICAL SITUATION YOU ARE CERTAINLY AWARE OF, THE  
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME TO  
COME FORWARD WITH A DECISION CONCERNING THE F-16 OPTION.

"EVEN THE "CONSEIL DES MINISTRES" WHICH WAS PLANNED  
FOR THIS MORNING AND WHICH HAD TO DISCUSS THE F-16 OPTION  
PROBLEM, HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

"I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT, AND TO CONVINCE YOU, THAT  
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THIS LACK OF DECISION DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THERE IS AT  
PRESENT ANY TENDANCY OR ORIENTATION TOWARDS A NEGATIVE  
APPROACH OF THIS PROBLEM. ON THE CONTRARY I REMAIN VERY  
CONFIDENT IN A POSITIVE OUTCOME.

"I TRULY REGRET THIS UNEXPECTED DELAY BUT I HOPE TO BE  
ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHLY APPRECIATED UNDERSTANDING YOU

SHOWED IN THIS VERY SENSITIVE MATTER.

"ON MY SIDE I ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL DO MY BEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN, AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND AS SOON AS THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED, THE INSCRIPTION OF THE F-16 OPTION AS AGENDA ITEM FOR THE "CONSEIL DES MINISTRES, WHICH IS, AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECALL, THE ONLY OFFICIAL BODY ENTITLED TO HANDLE THIS MATTER. YOURS VERY SINCERELY, (S) P. VANDEN BOEYNANTS.

2. ORIGINAL LETTER BEING MAILED 16 JUNE 78.

3. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER, COL J. LEFEVRE, CHEF DE CABINET TO MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS WAS ASKED WHAT MIGHT BE THE EARLIEST DATE THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE RECONCILED. COL LEFEVRE WAS RELUCTANT TO FORECAST A DATE BUT DID SAY THAT UNTIL THE KING EITHER ACCEPTED OR REJECTED PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS' RESIGNATION, THAT LITTLE COULD OCCUR TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. SHOULD THE KING ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIGNATION, THERE IS A PROCEDURE TO HANDLE THIS TYPE OF ACTION WHILE THE COUNTRY FORMS A NEW GOVERNMENT. IN ANY CASE, THE LEVEL OF CONSULTATION REQUIRED AMONG THE MINISTERS NORMALLY ONLY TAKES PLACE ON FRIDAY. THERE IS HOWEVER, EXTRAORDINARY PROCEDURES TO CALL THEM IN TO SESSION ON A DAY OTHER THAN FRIDAY. COL LEFEVRE DID NOT FORECAST UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AN EMERGENCY  
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SESSION OF THE MINISTERS TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT.

AS REPORTED LAST EVENING PER TELECON TO COL KLAUS OASD/ISA, THERE IS A MINI CABINET MEETING IN SESSION THIS AFTERNOON AND MR VANDEN BOEYNANTS IS CARRYING THE F-16 OPTION PAPERS TO THE MEETING. COL LEFEVRE DOES NOT FEEL THAT THIS MEETING WILL HAVE TIME TO ADDRESS THE F-16 ISSUE. SHOULD THE REVERSE PROVE TO BE TRUE, WE WILL REPORT BY TWX OR PHONE ANY CHANGE IN DEVELOPMENTS. DE TARR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BRUSSE11921  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780252-0163  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** F-16 OPTIONAL AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** MARR, MPOL, BE  
**To:** DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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